The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other matters as may tend to benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 9. NO. 47. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1920. WHOLE NO. 463.

## WANT SEDITION LAW TO CONTROL "INTENT"

Washington, Feb. 14.—Attorney General Palmer told the house judiciary committee that the Sterling-Graham sedition bill was too drastic, although he favored legislation that would control "revolutionary intent."

The attorney general's testimony indicated that there is no fundamental difference between him and advocates of the Sterling-Graham bills. He seemed to have a mollusk-covered sedition law, which would be attorney-proof, enjoyed by federal judges and district attorneys. The Sterling-Graham bill does not discuss its purpose to make it easy for judges and district attorneys mind readers and controllers of speech.

Opponents of sedition legislation show that the federal criminal codes offices ample power to protect the government against those who preach violence. If a man advocates force against the government or its laws, he commits a criminal act. If he conspires or plots for the same purpose, he can be punished under existing statutes.

Sedition law advocates agree that present laws can punish these overacts, but they want to reach "revolutionary intent." The question then arises: "What is revolutionary intent?" Mr. Palmer says that the court shall decide each particular case. And herein is the real difference between the seditionists and their opponents.

If a sedition law was in force during the coal and steel strikes practically any federal judge would respond to the frenzy that the public was hashed into and hold that the "intent" of these strikers was to destroy the government.

Under a sedition law when trade unionists urge the election of federal judges they could be held as offenders of "revolutionary intent," as the initial move to undermine our system of government.

If a man held unorthodox views on the money question, on the land question, on domestic or foreign governmental policies or on injunction writs these could be construed as "revolutionary intent" on the ground that the man was really aiming at weakening respect for government as a preliminary to openly advocating its overthrow.

It is agreed that the Sterling-Graham bill will not pass the house as it present form and its backers are discussing the Davey sedition bill, written by Attorney General Palmer and introduced by Congressman Davey of Louisiana.

If this bill passes it will accomplish everything desired by the most ardent sedition law advocates. It will powers courts to ascertain the mental attitude of a man and then punish him.

## "UNION" WAS FINANCED.

New York, Feb. 14.—How the Indianapolis Rapid Transit company financed its company "union," known as the Interborough Brotherhood, is shown in an investigation of the company's affairs.

Last summer the "union" went on strike, and it has been charged that the company was back of this move as an advertising and propaganda program. While the strike agitation was on the company secured an injunction against officers of the bona fide street car men's union from the street, and in the franchise these properties. The judge held that "one union is enough."

It is now shown that the president of the company "union" was paid at his company wages as a motorman, last summer, while engaged in the business of the "union."

It was also shown that Ivy L. Lee, formerly connected with the Rockefeller interests as a publicity agent, is receiving $12,000 a year as head of the street car company's publicity department.

It was Mr. Lee who became important by the statement that "if you let me write the heads for a newspaper article, I don't care who writes the story."

## CHEER LABOR PROGRAM.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Cheers greeted President Gompers' reference to the A. F. of L. legislative political program at a conference of shipbuilders at which 15 unions of the country were represented. "We propose to move ahead, no matter what obstacles are placed in our way," said the A. F. of L. executive, whose declarations of its program for the present congress brought the delegates to their feet.

President Gompers told of the A. F. of L. metal trades department also made a spirited address, which put the delegates in the workers' mood for the congress, "next year you'll be asked to speak to a Republican trade unionist."

A resolution indorsing non-partisan political action was passed with a whoop.

## LABOR BLAMED, OF COURSE.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 14.—At a mass meeting of business men in this city building craftsmen were told that they should "cut down the workers' wage offer that building may be encouraged."

The business men made no comment on the unheard of prices of material they asked the last four years. But when labor asks for increases that will total less than an average of up to 20 per cent in four years, the business men wag their heads and talk about the lack of civic pride on the part of Butte workers.

## 362,612 WAR CASUALTIES.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The war department announces that there were 362,612 casualties in the American forces during the great war. The figures include 77,118 dead, 221,135 wounded, 43,959 captured and 22,410 missing in action.

The list of wounded includes approximately 15 per cent who returned to duty. Siberian casualties are not included.

## HUGE MAIL ORDER PROFITS.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—The mail order house of Sears, Roebuck & Co., made a clear profit last year of $9,115,000. There was a dividend of $71,400 on the $1,714,000 worth of common stock. The company placed over $15,000,000 in its surplus account, bringing this fund up to $23,874,919.

## PAINTERS ADVANCE.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 14.—An arbitration board has ruled that wages for painters shall be advanced 25 per cent, up until June 1, when an additional 15 cents will be added, making the rate $1 a day.

## ROCK DUST IN LUNGS BRINGS MANY EVILS

Washington, Feb. 14.—Congress has given encouragement and support to autocratic and reactionary methods in industry. Everything that has been the repression of labor, say representatives of the American Federation of Labor in a declaration for non-partisan political action at the forthcoming campaign and election.

The declaration, was authorized by the last A. F. of L. executive and the conference of December 12 last, which was attended by representatives of the A. F. of L. national and international affiliates, the railroad brotherhoods and farmers' organizations.

The declaration is signed by President Gompers and associate members of the A. F. of L. executive council, the presidents and secretaries of the various A. F. of L. departments; John P. Frey, editor International Molders' Journal; Mrs. Sara A. Conboy, secretary United Textile Workers; Rose Schneiderman, Gerald, president Women's International Union Label League; Miss Melinda Scott of the United Felt, Panama and Straw Hat Trimmers and Operators and Miss Lucy Mahoney of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

"The record of every aspirant for public office must be thoroughly examined, and in no uncertain language and given the widest possible publicity. Labor's friends and enemies must be definitely and clearly it is stated.

"To this end the A. F. of L. has created the national non-partisan political campaign committee and it now calls upon all affiliated and recognized labor organizations to create district and local committees to co-operate with the national committee and to co-ordinate their efforts."

The declaration notifies hostile senators, congressmen and other public officials that they will be "called at the primaries, during the campaign and on election day by organized wage earners and sympathizers.

"Our favorable legislative action upon the recommendations contained in the A. F. of L. reconstruction program, or those expressed at the December conference, has been taken by congress," says the declaration. "Instead, many congressmen have endeavored to enact legislation providing for compulsory labor. Despite the patriotism and sacrifice of the masses of labor in America during the world war under the guise of anti-sedition laws the effort has been made to reduce the American people to the lowest free press.

"Scorned by congress, ridiculed and misrepresented by the reactionary press of both houses, the American labor movement finds it necessary to vigorously protest against the methods established non-partisan political policy.

"Sinister forces are already actively engaged in efforts to confuse and nullify labor's political power. Their object is to divide our vote so that the election of reactionaries and friends of labor will be assured. Unless labor holds steadfastly to its non-partisan political policy the enemies of labor will be successful in their efforts. Labor cannot, labor must not, permit its political power to be divided in the present crisis.

"Organized labor owes allegiance to no political party. It is a party unto itself. It is the party to principles—the principles of freedom, of justice and of democracy.

"Wherever candidates for re-election have been friendly to labor, labor should be should be loyal and supported. Wherever candidates are hostile or indifferent to labor, the interests labor should be defeated and the nomination and election of new and tried trade unionists or of earnest friends should be secured.

"In complying with the instructions of the last convention of the labor and farmer conference of December 12, 1919, that a non-partisan political determination to apply every legitimate and honorable means at our command to accomplish the defeat of labor's enemies who aspire for public office, whether they be candidates for president, for congress, for state legislatures or any other office.

President Gompers and Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L., and President Duncan of the A. F. of L. metal trades department, were selected as an executive committee, and empowered to secure such assistants as may be necessary to make the declaration effective.

## SYNOPSIS OF LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL PROGRAM

Reaffirming non-partisan policy, maintained since inception of A. F. of L. in 1886.

This policy will be intensified by starting before the primaries, when candidates will be asked to state their position on labor's demand for social legislation and constitutional guarantees.

Candidates for congress who are hostile or indifferent to labor will be opposed in the primaries, during the campaign and on election day.

The A. F. of L. has created the national non-partisan political campaign committee to make this policy effective. This committee has appointed Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and James O'Connell as executive committee, with power to secure such assistants as are necessary to inaugurate a spirited and nation-wide campaign.

All affiliated and recognized labor organizations are called upon to create district and local committees to cooperate with the national committee.

Every legitimate effort will be made to accomplish the defeat of labor's enemies who aspire for public office, whether they be candidates for president, for congress, for state legislatures, or any other office.

## Labor To Apply Its Non-Partisan Political Policy

## FILIPINOS WANT FREEDOM.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Secretary Kalaw, of the Philippine commission, in a memorial addressed to no one to define the terms "ability," "capacity" and "sufficient education" in the Philippines, stated:

"Capacity for self-government," says the secretary, "is as broad and elastic as the world, and it is that should be the criterion for the granting of Philippine independence. America might as well say to the Filipinos: 'We will give you independence when it pleases me to do so.'

"When America, through her congress, officially told the Filipino people that they would be granted independence as soon as they could establish a stable government, no abstract or obscure conditions were meant. Stable government, according to American usage, means certain, definite things.

"The present representative of the United States in the Philippine Islands, the governor general, has repeatedly told the American congress and the administration, that the Filipino people have fulfilled the specification. He said: 'The Filipino people have established the rule of law, and have demanded of congress as a prerequisite for the granting of independence, that a government elected by the suffrage of the people, which is supported by the people, which is capable of maintaining order and of fulfilling its international obligations.'"

## MOBBERS MAY ESCAPE.

Tombstone, Ariz., Feb. 14.—Mobbers who deported 1,200 workmen from Bisbee in July, 1917, may escape punishment because of failure to indict the jurors.

Lawyers say that because of the disproportion of exemptions not more than six cases could be tried in this county through lack of jurors in the panel. Attorneys in the state cannot ask for a change of venue in another county, this right existing only with the defense. If the defense demands separate trials for all the accused, juries could not be obtained, lawyers said, and even if all the defendants were automatically would go free, or their cases remain on the criminal calendar indefinitely.

There are only 7,600 possible jurors in the county, but it was estimated that 60 per cent are employees of the defendant copper company, which is manifestly impossible. A large percentage of the remainder, from indications of men already competitive, have reached opinions concerning the deportations.

## HAVE NEW WAR WHOOP.

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—Anti-union employers throughout the west and southwest are abandoning the "open shop" war whoop and now favor the "American plan."

The "free and independent" claim of the so-called "open shoppers" has been so discredited that its advocates now let it rest on the prevailing wages, low hours and individual bargaining.

The California Metal Trades association has declared for the "American plan" and says this has proved satisfactory in the east. Trade unionists are asking the employers if they read the newspapers and if they know anything about the steel industry, for instance.

## LEWIS HEADS MINERS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—John L. Lewis, vice president, has been elected the United Mine Workers of America, by the international executive board of the organization. Philip Murray, president of the Pittsburgh district, was elected vice president.

President Lewis has been the acting president for several months because of the illness of President Frank J. Hayes, who recently resigned.

## TO START CO-OP. STORE.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Feb. 14.—Trade unionists have resolved to open a store and are hustling to dispose of $50,000 bonds.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 14.—Cooperators in this city have speeded up their campaign to put their movement on a basis where it will do business in its own store.

## PASS TWO-PLATOON LAW.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 14.—The state legislature has passed a two-platoon law for municipal firemen. Many Ohio cities have been operating under this system as a result of trade union agitation.

## SHOE WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, Feb. 14.—Nearly 10,000 shoe workers will be benefited by a wage increase that dates back to November 1 last. The increase ranges from 30 to 50 per cent.

## LABOR COST OF SHOES.

Boston, Feb. 14.—Claims that the high cost of labor is responsible for the high price of shoes are answered by Editor Bailey of the Shoe Workers' Journal, who says:

"From authentic information which we have before us, we know that the increase in the actual cost of labor in making the better grades of men's shoes has been not to exceed 25 to 40 cents per pair.

"It is true that most of this actual increase in labor cost has come in the last five years, or during the war period, and these are the extreme advances in actual increase of labor cost.

"But other cost expenses may be figured as labor cost as a matter of figuring, we are unable to say. We only know what is cost of the industry.

"That we advance of not over 40 cents per pair on labor cost does not account for the present price of shoes to us. In the case of shoes, labor is not the goat, and we do not willingly have the appearance of being the goat.

"Speaking of goats reminds us that the cost of leather stands at an advance of 500 per cent over pre-war prices, and more than leather, approximately the same. Sole leather and side upper leathers are approximately 300 per cent higher."

## WORLD NEEDS THINKERS.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 14.—The crying need in the world is for people who can think for themselves, says Dr. E. Hayden, of the University of Chicago, in a recent talk here.

"To develop individualities that have the ability to appreciate and understand life, and that have their own power to share their destinies, is the need," he continued, "and the method of working toward this ideal is most important.

"German educationalists, said Dr. Hayden, are now advocating just that thing. Germany, realizing that for many, the moulding of national characteristics and habits of thought by means of the schools and colleges. Any nation can so organize its education that it can produce a type of person, but we have seen how that worked in Germany. "Who shall decide who shall be a character that is built into the American people?" asked Dr. Hayden, adding, "I, for one, am not so sure that I should care to hand myself over to such dictatorship."

## DIDN'T BLUFF BRAGY.

Guayama, Porto Rico, Feb. 14.—Peter J. Bragy, of Washington, D. C., A. F. of L. commission that is investigating working conditions in this island, had a clash with public officials when they held 15 strikers for trial. The officials charged the "stirring up trouble." Under the law this offense is merely a misdemeanor. When Bragy learned that his vigorous protest he was asked if he knew how to bluff, he said:

The New York unionist replied that while he was not looking for bluff he could give as good as he got.

The bail was reduced to $100 for each striker.

## MUCH SMOKE, LITTLE FIRE.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The anti-profiteer campaign has resulted in 38 arrests, report of the department of justice. Of this number only a small percentage have been brought to trial, and in 23 cases convictions have been secured. Some of the arrests have been made for profiteering in sugar with the government controlling 3/4 to one-fourth of these cases have come to trial.

## OPPOSE SEDITION LAW.

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 14.—In a bulletin issued by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada affiliated unions are to demand the repeal of war-time orders-in-council which authorize deportation without sedition acts.

The unionists state that "sedition laws have been repealed in Russia, it must always remain too much a matter of opinion and judgment rather than clearly defined fact."

## TO HAVE PENSION PLAN.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Feb. 14.—Employers and employed in the pottery industry will establish a sick, disability and age pension system, the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters has joined with the employers in a statement that "we will work out a plan that is mutually satisfactory."

## WANT ONE DAY OFF.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 14.—Union waiters are on strike against the decision that they can "take" tips, have adopted this slogan: "We don't want to work 365 days in the year."

## OPPOSE SEDITION LAW.

Boston, Feb. 14.—At a dinner given to members of the state constitutional convention ex-Governor McCall declared sedition bills now pending in the national congress. He declared that they are the result of "unsatisfactored hysteria."

"One would think," said the speaker, "that the plight of Russia, buried as she is under one revolution piled upon another, was due to centuries of free discussion and an excess of political principle, when in truth we know it is due to repression, and that the closing of the very safety valve in government has resulted in the explosion of state. To prevent in America a thing that has happened in Russia, some of our zealous patriots are proposing here the very thing that has brought about chaos there.

"Macauley declared in a little pamphlet that the rainbow of the state, and while it was a sign of a passing storm, it was also a sign that there would be no deluge. They are nothing less than the prophets of the ancient Israelitish system who would in any degree substitute here the political prescription and repression of Russia for the long-cherished freedom of our country."

## FUR WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Feb. 14.—Four locals affiliated with the International Fur Workers' union have adjusted a wage dispute that has lasted for several months.

Under the new agreement wages will advance from 10 to 40 per cent for those receiving $40 a week; 35 per cent for those paid between $35 and $40 and 40 per cent for those paid over $35. This is a seasonal increase, the wage scale to be revised when spread throughout the year.

The employers failed to restrict to the minimum wage scale, thus preserving exceptional ability. The settlement was made at a joint conference committee, representing employers and employed.

The American executive board, International Fur Workers' union, has offices in this city, which is established in Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Paul and to some extent in Los Angeles, San Francisco and elsewhere.

## CAN'T ENFORCE LAW.

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 14.—The Canadian government refuses to repeal the "can't-strike"-law and refuses to enforce it, the officers of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada who say that this attitude "brings about a disrespect for the law and is undesirable."

With the organized industrial importance of widely scattered sections of the country, the congress demands that to enforce any section of the act, and the trade unionists recommend to the government that a commission be set up for investigation and conciliation be covered instead.

The workers express their willingness to participate in a conference to undertake this work, and claim the legislation may be devised to provide for such a satisfactory settlement of labor disputes.

## SET MINIMUM WAGE.

Washington, Feb. 14.—A minimum weekly wage of $16 has been recommended for women employes of hotels, restaurants, clubs, hospitals and apartments in the nation's capital. These employers are up in arms over the decision.

Under the District of Columbia minimum wage law, women and minors a commission of three, representing employers, employed and the public, issues a decision. These hearings are held by representatives of all parties.

## PROBATION SYSTEM FAULTY.

Boston, Feb. 14.—The American probation system is faulty, declared Judge Robert Dunn, of the juvenile court.

"The way out," he said, "is to place the offender in a different environment to give him a chance under a more or less strict discipline, to rid himself of the habits and ideas that have caused him to break the law."

Judge Dunn took an active part in developing the present Swedish probation system.

## NEGROES BEING OUSTED.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 14.—At a meeting of the national committee for organizing iron and steel workers, it was reported that negroes who were imported to replace striking steel strikers are being discharged by the wholesale. Previous to the strike few negroes were employed in this branch of industry.

## LABOR'S "GUARDIANS."

New York, Feb. 14.—The Engineering and Mining Journal says that "employers those in charge of business, who are really the moral guardians of labor" to assume "responsibility with the reasons for the present living cost."

## WANTS WORKERS TO PAY

Washington, Feb. 14.—United States Senator Pomerene of Ohio has offered a substitute for the McKellar-Sproul bill for a retirement bill. The latter legislation is urged by organized government employes and provides that the government and employes shall jointly contribute to the fund. Retirement is to take place at the age of 65 years in most cases and in other special cases 62 to 65 years. The maximum annuity, depending on length of service and salary, shall be $720 annually and the minimum shall be $180. Employments for 15 years will be necessary before an employe is entitled to the retirement.

The bill of Senator Pomerene objects. His substitute would put all the cost on the employe, who shall be retired at the age of 70 years.

In attempting to block consideration of the retirement bill Senator Pomerene caused Senator McKellar, senate sponsor for the bill, to make this reference to the Ohio senator:

"I know that the senator takes the view that he is in favor of some sort of civil service retirement law, but he seems to be opposed to the bill now before the senate. He has been opposed to the passage of all its opponents. I recall many times while I was attempting to get the retirement bill through the senate, which are always very pertinent with me, all I asks very fond of him, but we did not get anywhere."

## BRITISH STRIKE ENDS.

Manchester, England, Feb. 14.—The strike of British iron molders has been adjusted. The employers agreed to pay wages back to August and has been one of the most protracted and bitter contests in the history of British trade unionism.

About 50,000 workers were involved, and it is declared that the only reason they ended the strike was because they were exhausted. Not two occasions they rejected compromises.

The London Times acknowledged that there was something more than mere stubbornness behind the strikers' refusal to quit. That "something," said the Times, "is the prepossession of healthy, clean-living men to continue at an ordinary wage in an occupation that is they find very disagreeable. The nearest parallel is the case of the miners, who have urged over and over again that the special circumstances of hardship and danger which attend our calling should be taken into account in the determination of their wages."

## PNEUMATIC HAMMER NUMBS.

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 14.—Stone cutters are urging legislation that will change the air and electric hammer in this industry. At the recent conference of trade unionists and government officials in the city of Ottawa, representatives of the Stone Cutters' union, in a brief, stated: "Operation of the workings of the pneumatic hammer. It was shown how the vibrating effect of the tool upon the nervous system with the result that it is almost impossible for three fingers of the worker become practically paralyzed. It was stated that unionists generally refused not accept tasks or less policies to men who handle this hammer.

## REJECT OLD STANDARDS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 14.—Dissent is made by the United Mine Workers of America against the theory that the miner is willing to accept 1914 living standards in the adjustment of the present wage controversy. This theory was emphasized by Dr. Garfield, fuel administrator, who was reported in the Journal.

"In the miner to have no opportunity to improve his lot, he said, the Journal and the United Mine Workers' Journal.

## PRINTING STRIKE ENDS.

Seattle, Feb. 14.—The printing trades strike, which started last September, has been settled. Wages for job compositors, pressmen and binders are advanced $1 a day and women bookkeepers' wage is made $14 a day. No change will be made in the eight-hour day. The scale is $8 a day for the seven-hour day and $1 an hour.

## PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 14.—Organized labor has obtained increased living contents an hour, making the new rate $1.25 cents an hour, or $7 for an eight-hour day.

## GRIGGS HAS RESIGNED.

Indianapolis, Feb. 14.—Sam Griggs has resigned as president of the Journeymen Stone Masons' union.

## PORTO RICO, 'LIVING GRAVEYARD'

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 14.—This island is "a living graveyard" for its workers and some employers and legislators are more cruel than the South Seas pirates of by-gone days, are two of the delegates from Porto Rico conditions that are enumerated in a letter to the acting governor of Porto Rico by Andrew McAndrew and Peter J. Brady, representing the American Federation of Labor. The former is president of the International Tobacco Workers' union and the latter is a member of the New York Photo Engravers' union. They were appointed by Samuel Gompers, on authority of the A. F. of L. convention to investigate working conditions in this island, as a result of appeals by Porto Rico trade unionists.

The delegates were with charges of wanton neglect and cruelty of employers and the acting president is called upon to immediately provide for a meeting of sugar planters that a conference may be arranged with the Porto Rico trade union movement for improvement of working conditions.

"In our visits to various parts of Porto Rico," the letter states, "we found wages as low as 60 cents for 10 hours work, and in some rare instances as high as $1.00—but only where the best and strongest men could be secured. The rate of pay for women for the same number of hours is from 20 to 40 cents and children get from 10 to 20 cents. Rents for tenement dwellings are far below the legal age for employment. In the necessities of living being so high, it is impossible for these unfortunate people to live human lives on such pay.

"The conditions of the people are so bad that to save them from a continuance of this living death the government should take charge of the situation in a business like manner."

The trade unionists declare that wages should be increased to $2.50 for an eight-hour day for men and $1.25 for women and boys.

"The sugar profits are enormous," it is stated. "The combination of this starving condition of the people of Porto Rico should not continue a moment longer. The very same spirit in the Porto Rican legislature are the same spirit of the slave barons."

"One of them, when his people refused to work any longer for the cheapest wage which his inhuman characteristic could give them, unlawfully denied them not only the use of the public highways, but also the drinking water from the streams. He placed wire fences around the water and stationed men with rifles to shoot the poor starving and thirsty people who came to drink of the water which God provided for all.

"The West Indies and Porto Rico may be conquered by the United States government from attacks from pirates, but the same number of hours in from 20 to 40 cents and children get from 10 to 20 cents. Rents for tenement dwellings are far below the legal age for employment. In the necessities of living being so high, it is impossible for these unfortunate people to live human lives on such pay.

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"The West Indies and Porto Rico may be conquered by the United States government from attacks from pirates, but the same number of hours are suffering far more by the hunger and slavery in which they are kept by the absentee owners in Spain, France, Germany, England, the United States and other countries, and the speculation in the stocks of the soulless corporations on the exchanges in Wall street, New York and in other elsewhere, and by the scheming of the sugar trust, and by the illiteracy and insecurity of the industrial conditions."

## BLANTON BUMPED.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Congressman Blanton was given a hard bump when the house refused by a vote of 156 to 70 to expunge from the record a speech made in the house by congressman.

Congressmen are privileged to extend their remarks in the Congressional Record, and Blanton has been accused of abusing this privilege.

The week Blanton's usual custom aroused Congressman Nolan, a member of the labor group, who made this reference on the floor:

"I want a man when he attacks anybody to attach him to his face and not steal into the Congressional Record, like a thief in the night, behind his back."

Blanton protested against this statement and the speaker asked the maker asked that he be permitted to withdraw it, because of its unparliamentary character. Congressman protested and on a roll call the statement was ordered retained in the Record.

The incident shows Blanton's standing with his colleagues. While he has attracted first-page attention by his crusade against the criminal anarchy for publishing an incendiary newspaper, and he may be renominated in his district.

"If it is spectacular terrorism should be the method, it is obvious that the attorney general wishes to paralyze the Bradstreet, we have to be reminded that the federal courts wide discretion in dealing with such offenders, and that always being taken into account. If the work of a Bradstreet is overthrow the government of the United States, various sections of the Bolshevik, we are being told on the ground. It might be difficult to convince the public that the chief justice was designed to set precedents, and that the magistrate is a citizen and is prepared to undertake the same as any other citizen. The work of a Bradstreet wants is something in the nature of the Bolshevik, and the crimes against certain persons may be punished with unusual severity. In the end the attorney general program congress does well to hesitate."

## DON'T FAVOR CHAIN STORES.

Brantford, Ontario, Feb. 14.—The Canadian Co-Operator urges co-operators to build their movement on the basis of co-operation and experience, rather than on emotion and hatred. In discussing claims made that co-operators in the United States contemplate starting a chain of stores, the Canadian Co-Operator says:

"There is a great pity if the money has to be lost before the discovery is made that the principal requisite for a successful co-operative venture is co-operators.

"The co-operative movement elsewhere is the result of steady and subtle, although rapid, growth upward from small foundations. Its economic importance has become great by the growth of a growing knowledge by the people of co-operation, of its benefits and their experience in the transaction of business. Such growth is subject to the influence of prejudice and insecurity of 'mushroom' conditions."

## RECALLING OTHER DAYS.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—"In Captain Kidd's day," says Editor Bailey of the Cigar Makers' Official Journal, "we had to contend with pirates (pirates). They have modernized the term somewhat and now call them 'profiteers.' We have had the courage to operate in the cap'n's day, but we operated with his life in one hand and a gun in the other, and was generally known and recognized as the Sculpin Gang of wonders. They are operating today under the shield of respectability and are referred to as shrewd financiers."

## WINDOW WASHERS GAIN.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—After a short strike window washers have won increases of $2.50 a week for the first six months and $3 a week thereafter. Extension ladder, scaffold and hold work is paid for at the rate of $1 and $1.10 an hour. The 44-hour week is established, with time and a half for overtime and double time for holidays.

## WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Rock Island, Ill., Feb. 14.—Through a new agreement wire men in electrical workers have raised wages to $1 an hour for journeymen and $1.12 1/2 an hour for foremen. Moline and Davenport are included in the settlement.

## SUFFS WIN TWO MORE.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 14.—The state legislature has ratified the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

Carson, Nev., Feb. 14.—The national suffrage amendment has been ratified by the state legislature.

## LESE MAJESTE LAW WANTED BY PALMER

New York, Feb. 14.—"In his demand for a new sedition act Attorney General Palmer has at last given his illustration of the alleged inadequacy of existing laws, says the New York World in an editorial entitled "Mr. Palmer's Lese Majeste."

"A man can go to the residence of the chief justice with a bomb and a threatening notice in his hands," he says, "and there would be no federal statute that we could use to punish that man for his act. Members of congress probably have not forgotten that a year ago they were not safe in the white house with nothing but suffrage banners in their hands; were properly assaulted, tried, convicted and imprisoned for disorderly conduct. Nobody suggested a law of criminal anarchy for publishing an incendiary newspaper, and he may be sure that it will not be now.

"If it is spectacular terrorism should be the method, it is obvious that the attorney general wishes to paralyze the Bolshevik, we are being taken into account. If the work of a Bradstreet is overthrow the government of the United States, various sections of the Bolshevik, we are being told on the ground. It might be difficult to convince the public that the chief justice was designed to set precedents, and that the magistrate is a citizen and is prepared to undertake the same as any other citizen. The work of a Bradstreet wants is something in the nature of the Bolshevik, and the crimes against certain persons may be punished with unusual severity. In the end the attorney general program congress does well to hesitate."

## WANT A BIG FIGHT.

Washington, Feb. 14.—About 2 per cent of the schools of this country have been closed because of lack of teachers, due to low wages, Editor C. E. Chance, United States commissioner of education, in a speech in this city, his estimated that only four-tenths of 1 per cent of the teachers of the whole country receive more than $1,600 a year.

"Now, when we come to consider how important schools are in the life of the nation, we face a very serious situation, we are actually starving the teaching force," said the commissioner. "We are actually starving the corn of the crop of the future. But we cannot attempt to hold the teaching profession the kind of people we wish unless we pay them a living wage."

## FIGHTING HOBGOBLINS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—In opposing sedition legislation, Jackson H. Ralston, counsel for the labor department to the house judiciary committee:

"Attorney General Palmer, with the $3,000,000 fund, which you in your wisdom placed at his disposal, is aide for him, is now engaged in fighting hobgoblins of his mind."

This description of the attorney general, the lawyer declared, provokes attacks on the department by its own conduct. "It is dangerous to put more power into the hands of men who today are abusing it," he said.

## PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, Feb. 14.—Rates for newspaper printers are advanced $1 a day and will date back to the first of the month. The scale is $8 for day work and $8.50 for night work.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 14.—Newspaper printers have raised wages to $7 a week for day work and $40 for night work.

## SWITCHMEN ORGANIZE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 14.—Officers of the Switchmen's Union of North America report that charters have been issued to the following locals during the month: Weehawken, W. J.; Memphis, Mass.; St. Thomas, Ontario; Hopeville, Cal., and Dennison, Ohio.

## PAPER MAKERS GAIN.

Miamisburg, Ohio, Feb. 14.—The Miamisburg Paper company has raised wages of its employes 10 per cent.

## WANTS WORKERS TO PAY

Washington, Feb. 14.—United States Senator Pomerene of Ohio has offered a substitute for the McKellar-Sproul bill for a retirement bill. The latter legislation is urged by organized government employes and provides that the government and employes shall jointly contribute to the fund. Retirement is to take place at the age of 65 years in most cases and in other special cases 62 to 65 years. The maximum annuity, depending on length of service and salary, shall be $720 annually and the minimum shall be $180. Employments for 15 years will be necessary before an employe is entitled to the retirement.

The bill of Senator Pomerene objects. His substitute would put all the cost on the employe, who shall be retired at the age of 70 years.

In attempting to block consideration of the retirement bill Senator Pomerene caused Senator McKellar, senate sponsor for the bill, to make this reference to the Ohio senator:

"I know that the senator takes the view that he is in favor of some sort of civil service retirement law, but he seems to be opposed to the bill now before the senate. He has been opposed to the passage of all its opponents. I recall many times while I was attempting to get the retirement bill through the senate, which are always very pertinent with me, all I asks very fond of him, but we did not get anywhere."

## BRITISH STRIKE ENDS.

Manchester, England, Feb. 14.—The strike of British iron molders has been adjusted. The employers agreed to pay wages back to August and has been one of the most protracted and bitter contests in the history of British trade unionism.

About 50,000 workers were involved, and it is declared that the only reason they ended the strike was because they were exhausted. Not two occasions they rejected compromises.

The London Times acknowledged that there was something more than mere stubbornness behind the strikers' refusal to quit. That "something," said the Times, "is the prepossession of healthy, clean-living men to continue at an ordinary wage in an occupation that is they find very disagreeable. The nearest parallel is the case of the miners, who have urged over and over again that the special circumstances of hardship and danger which attend our calling should be taken into account in the determination of their wages."

## PNEUMATIC HAMMER NUMBS.

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 14.—Stone cutters are urging legislation that will change the air and electric hammer in this industry. At the recent conference of trade unionists and government officials in the city of Ottawa, representatives of the Stone Cutters' union, in a brief, stated: "Operation of the workings of the pneumatic hammer. It was shown how the vibrating effect of the tool upon the nervous system with the result that it is almost impossible for three fingers of the worker become practically paralyzed. It was stated that unionists generally refused not accept tasks or less policies to men who handle this hammer.

## REJECT OLD STANDARDS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 14.—Dissent is made by the United Mine Workers of America against the theory that the miner is willing to accept 1914 living standards in the adjustment of the present wage controversy. This theory was emphasized by Dr. Garfield, fuel administrator, who was reported in the Journal.

"In the miner to have no opportunity to improve his lot, he said, the Journal and the United Mine Workers' Journal.

## PRINTING STRIKE ENDS.

Seattle, Feb. 14.—The printing trades strike, which started last September, has been adjusted. Wages for job compositors, pressmen and binders are advanced $1 a day and women bookkeepers' wage is made $14 a day. No change will be made in the eight-hour day. The scale is $8 a day for the seven-hour day and $1 an hour.

## PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 14.—Organized labor has obtained increased living contents an hour, making the new rate $1.25 cents an hour, or $7 for an eight-hour day.

## GRIGGS HAS RESIGNED.

Indianapolis, Feb. 14.—Sam Griggs has resigned as president of the Journeymen Stone Masons' union.